

Madonna Wins Billboard's Woman of the Year Award and Gives This Bold Speech

Video Source: [Billboard](#)

When Madonna won Billboard's Woman of the Year Award, she didn't share the usual speech thanking everyone that helped her get there. Instead, she talked about the tough stuff: the rampant sexism, age-ism, and racism of the male-run music industry.

In the video of her speech (which was edited by Billboard), Madonna shares her rough beginnings in New York City that included numerous robberies, a rape, and the loss of many friends to AIDS and drugs.

She talks about how "Women have been oppressed for so long that they believe what men have to say about them" and told all the women in the audience, "As women, we have to start appreciating our own worth, and each other's worth."

She shares lots of store words and gets bleeped-out a couple times, but in the end, Madonna thanks all her naysayers

In the end, she even thanked all of her doubters, naysayers, and all those who gave her hell, saying "you're resistance made me stronger; made me push harder; made me the fighter that I am today; made me the woman that I am today."

Here's what Lady Gaga thought about the speech: